

University of Colorado Abstract, July 2012

Dr. Ralph Kahn  
Senior Research Scientist  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 613 Greenbelt, MD 20771  
e-mail: [ralph.kahn@nasa.gov](mailto:ralph.kahn@nasa.gov)

Title: Progress toward a global, EOS-Era Aerosol Air Mass Type Climatology

The MISR and MODIS instruments aboard the NASA Earth Observing System's Terra Satellite have been collecting data containing information about the state of Earth's atmosphere and surface for over eleven years. Data from these instruments have been used to develop a global, monthly climatology of aerosol amount that is widely used as a constraint on climate models, including those used for the 2007 IPCC assessment report. The next frontier in assessing aerosol radiative forcing of climate is aerosol type, and in particular, the absorption properties of major aerosol air masses. This presentation will focus on the prospects for constraining aerosol type globally, and the steps we are taking to apply a combination of satellite and suborbital data to this challenge.